UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Extension Service
Office of Exhibits

A Summary of the Exhibit

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A GOOD HOUSE MAKES

A scenic booth exhibit showing the value of a good poultry house; and types of houses suitable for different parts of the United States.

Specifications

Floor space - - - - - - - - - 13'-3" front, 8'-2" (deep.
Wall space - - - - - - - - - None.
Shipping weight - - - - - - 946 lbs.
Electrical requirements - 110 volt A.C. or D.C.
current. 300 watts for lights and fan
100 watts, total watts 400.

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How It Looks

The leading feature of this exhibit is the contrast shown by models of two poultry houses, one properly constructed, and the other a makeshift house. Within each house may be seen lifelike cutouts of four hens sitting on the roosts. The effect of the good and poor houses on the health of the hens is evident, and the drafty nature of the poor type house is emphasized by a fluttering of feathers. This is accomplished by means of an electric fan which agitates the feathers attached to the hens. Just beneath each window is a statement which represents what the chickens think about their home.

Each of the side sections show two large colored pictures of different types of poultry houses. On the bottom of each section is a map of the United States. Arrows leading from each type of poultry house to the map indicate to what part of the country the houses are best suited.

The booth is 13 ft. 3 " across the front, and 8 ft. 2" deep, and 7 ft. 4" high.

What It Tells

The housing of the laying stock is one phase of poultry management which has a far greater effect on egg production than most poultrymen realize. This exhibit illustrates some differences between a good and a poor house for laying stock.

Among other things the poultry house should be well built, well ventilated but free from drafts, and dry. A house which allows drafts over the floor and roosting quarters causes colds and other sickness. Also, poorly lighted houses are usually excessively damp. It should be borne in mind that laying stock can stand very cold weather if the house is dry.

Houses on the Pacific coast, because of the milder climate, are frequently of the open-front type, which provides plenty of light and ventilation. The

New Jersey type house is similar, but in most houses used in northern sections on the Atlantic coast some glass is used on the south side.

A type suitable for the northwestern section of the country and another called the Missouri type for the middle western and southwestern sections are also shown. Both these houses have open fronts, and it will be noted that the northwestern type has less opening in the front than the other. The extremely cold weather in the northwestern section during the winter months prevents the use of much open front. The Missouri type differs from the other three particularly in respect to its straw-filled gable, which has been found a desirable feature in keeping the house dry during the colder seasons of the year when dampness given off by the birds or the natural dampness of the atmosphere is absorbed by the straw.

Poultry houses should always be located on soil which has good natural drainage. From three to four square feet of floor space per bird should be provided. Leghorns and similar breeds require about three, while larger breeds, such as Plymouth Rocks and Rhode Island Reds, need four square feet per bird. The interior should be arranged so that it will be convenient to care for the birds and to clean and disinfect all surfaces. A well-built house which provides comfort for the birds is necessary if egg production is to be kept at its maximum.

Where to Get Information

The following publications may be obtained free of charge from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Farmers' Bulletin 1413 - Poultry House Construction
Farmers' Bulletin 801 - Mites and Lice on Poultry
Farmers' Bulletin 1337 - Important Poultry Diseases